

**Funding Action Team
Meeting Notes
June 16, 2006**

Attendance

B. Blaesing, A. Cooper, C. Mann, J. Niemela, T. Petko, E. Timpf,
C. Van Deusen, S. Maynard

**Meeting
Overview**

Theresa Petko opened discussion; SEMCOG Update: Chris Mann;
Overview of Stop Overspending Campaign and Minnesota's Transportation
Amendment: Brian Blaesing; MDOT Budget Update: Ed Timpf.

Meeting Notes

SEMCOG Update: Chris Mann gave background on SEMCOG's Transportation Improvement Program Development Committee which, primarily focused on transportation funding, has explored issues concerning the importance of the transportation system to our state and regional economy and the need to adequately fund the system through both short and long-term stable sources of revenues.

The Committee presented a series of conclusions, including the fact there are insufficient revenues to maintain and improve the region's transportation system and that a stable source of revenue is absolutely necessary to support regional economy and to maintain and improve quality of life. Based on the conclusions, the TIP Development Committee developed recommendations directed at stabilizing current revenue sources in the short-term and to explore new innovations in transportation fees for the long-term.

The next steps for the project are to partner with state and local government organizations such as the Michigan Municipal League, County Road Association, MDOT and other transportation organizations in advocating for new revenues and to educate the public on the need for new revenues.

**Meeting
Notes
(continued)**

Minnesota's Transportation Amendment - Vote Yes for Better Roads and

Transit: Brian Blaesing summarized the campaign in support of the amendment which will add new revenue without raising additional taxes. For 25 years Minnesota policy makers have committed to permanently dedicate all revenues raised from the sales tax on new and used motor vehicles to transportation, however, all or part of the revenue is diverted to other programs. This amendment will be on the November 2006 ballot. If approved, 100 percent of the revenue from the existing motor vehicle sales tax will be dedicated to improve the transportation system.

Stop Overspending (SOS) Campaign: Brian also gave overview of the SOS Constitutional amendment which an attempt is being made to put the proposal on the November ballot. A movement to restrict spending of revenues, significantly reducing state and local public services, could be compared to Colorado's TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) amendment. A Defend Michigan Coalition has been formed, dedicated to educating Michigan residents about the amendment (<http://www.defendmichigan.com/>). The Michigan League for Human Services website also has more information (<http://www.milhs.org/>).

FY 2007 Budget Update: Ed Timpf gave briefing on the MDOT Budget, Currently at the House and Senate and, upon approval will be forwarded to the Governor for consideration, nearing completion of the budget development process for FY2007.

**2006
Meeting
Dates**

Friday, August 18 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
MDOT Secondary Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Lansing

Friday, October 20 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
MDOT Secondary Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Lansing

Friday, December 15 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
MDOT Secondary Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Lansing

